



State of Wisconsin

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
Wisconsin Emergency Management

2400 WRIGHT ST
PO BOX 7865
MADISON, WI 53707-7865
Telephone: (608) 242-3232
Fax: (608) 242-3247
24-hour Emergency Hotline:
1-800-943-0003

INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE MEMO

01-01-03

DATE: January 10, 2003

TO: County Emergency Management Directors

FROM: Edward J. Gleason
Administrator

SUBJECT: 2003 TORNADO & SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK
AND SPRING FLOOD POTENTIAL OUTLOOK SCHEDULE

In 2002, storms throughout Wisconsin produced a total of 26 tornadoes. The most serious of these, was an F3 tornado experienced by the City of Ladysmith on Labor Day, causing 24 injuries. Five other tornadoes touched down the same weekend, bringing about a disaster declaration. Severe storms and heavy rains, which totaled 5-10 inches over a two day period in June, caused flash flooding and wind damage throughout central and northern Wisconsin. Eight counties were included in yet another disaster declaration.

Wisconsin Emergency Management and the National Weather Service are sponsoring Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week in Wisconsin during the week of April 7th through 11th, 2003. This awareness week is presented every year to help ensure state and local governments, along with the private sector, are appropriately prepared to protect themselves and their property in the event of severe weather. During the next few months, additional information concerning Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week will be sent to local governments, schools and media outlets.

The National Weather Service will be conducting a statewide tornado drill on the afternoon of Thursday, April 10. The Tornado Watch will begin at 1:15 PM, and the Tornado Warning will be issued at 1:45 PM. In the event of severe weather, the drill will move to the same times on Friday, April 11. If severe weather is present on Friday, the drill will be canceled.

Last year, in addition to tornadoes and severe storms, Wisconsin experienced damaging floods. Flooding and flash flooding are the most common and costly of natural disasters that occur in Wisconsin. The National Weather Service will be issuing flood outlooks based on snow cover,

projected rainfall, and river levels in the state. The dates for this year's flood outlooks are as follows:

Required Narrative Flood Outlook Update:	February 21, 2003
Required Numerical Flood Outlook Update:	March 14, 2003

Probability graphics for the outlooks will also be issued on the above dates and can be found at: http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ncrfc/html_frames/springfloodindex.html. Additional information on the current state of rivers in Wisconsin is available over the internet at: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ncrfc> under *daily products*, *flood products*, and *spring flood outlook*.

Information regarding Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week will be coming out in future I&G Memos over the next few months. If you have any questions regarding the Spring Flood Outlook or the Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Campaign, please contact your Regional Director.

ATTACHMENTS

DISTRIBUTION:

MG Albert H. Wilkening, TAG
Governor's Office
Randy Thiel, WI DPI
Rusty Kapela, NWSO-Sullivan
National Weather Service Offices
Barb Fonkert, MN DEM
WEM Staff

*Previous Information & Guidance Memo 12-02-02, FY 2002 Supplemental Funding Application - Planning